

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 L-03 FRB-03 OMB-01

ITC-01 SP-02 AGRE-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00

INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 OIC-02 SIL-01 STR-04

TRSE-00 CEA-01 SS-15 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

USIE-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 NEA-10 /123 W

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O R 081020Z SEP 77

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 925

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

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EB FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY JULIUS KATZ

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNCTAD, EGEN

SUBJ: UNCTAD, TDB: AGENDA FOR MINISTERIAL TDB

1. GROUP B REACHED AGREEMENT, SEPT 7, ON A PROPOSED AGENDA FOR THE TDB MINISTERIAL WHICH HAS BEEN CIRCULATED AMONG THE G-77. THE G-77 IS EXPECTED TO PRESENT A COUNTER-DRAFT LATER TODAY. PRIVATELY A NUMBER OF G-77 MEMBERS HAVE ALREADY INDICATED THAT THE GROUP B DRAFT IS NOT ACCEPTABLE, BECAUSE IT MERELY CALLS FOR A REVIEW OF ACTIONS. G-77 DESIRES ACTION-FORCING LANGUAGE. (CHAIRMAN DE ALWIS' OPENING STATEMENT PUT GREAT STRESS ON NEED TO TURN FROM REVIEW OF DEBT ACTIONS ELSEWHERE TO ACTIVE SEARCH IN UNCTAD FOR SOLUTION TO THIS URGENT PROBLEM).

2. GROUP B CONSENSUS FORGED ON THE DESIRABILITY OF
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BROADER TDB MINISTERIAL AGENDA TO INCLUDE OTHER ITEMS IN ADDITION TO DEBT AND PROBLEMS OF LEAST DEVELOPED, BUT THE GROUP COULD NOT REACH AGREEMENT ON ANY ADDITIONAL TOPICS BEYOND MANDATE IN 94(IV) AND 149(XVI). THE CANADIANS, BRITISH, SWEDES AND OTHERS OPPOSED ADDING A GENERAL REVIEW ITEM TO THE MINISTERIAL AGENDA AS TOO BROAD AT TOPIC WHICH COULD TURN THE MEETING INTO A PRE-

MATURE UNCTAD V. (SOME GROUP B MEMBERS ALSO THOUGHT THE G-77 WOULD VIEW THIS TOPIC AS A DELIBERATE "TIME WASTER./) THE GROUP THEREFORE DECIDED TO PROPOSE THAT A THIRD TOPIC COULD BE ELABORATED BY A RESUMED MEETING OF SENIOR OFFICIALS POSSIBLY IN DECEMBER. COREA IN OPENING STATEMENT ASKED THAT AGENDA BE LEFT OPEN UNTIL SOME LATER DATE. THIS MEETING WOULD FINALIZE THE AGENDA IN LIGHT OF THE RESULTS OF THE 31ST UNGA, THE 32ND UNGA, AND THE NOVEMBER COMMON FUND MEETING.

3. GROUP B TURNED DOWN U.S. PROPOSAL ON EAST-SOUTH TRADE AS BEING COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE, FOR BOTH POLITICAL AND TACTICAL REASONS. WHEN USDEL PROPOSED REGIONAL CO-OPERATION AS AN AGENDA TOPIC, THE UK DELEGATE SAID THAT CIEC DISCUSSIONS ON THIS TOPIC HAD BEEN TOTALLY UNPRODUCTIVE: THEREFORE, HE AND OTHERS OPPOSED ADDING THIS TOPIC TO MINISTERIAL AGENDA. THEY THOUGHT THIS ITEM WOULD PROVOKE THE G-77 TO REQUEST (AS THE G-19 HAD AT CIEC) GRANTS FOR VAGUELY DEFINED REGIONAL COOPERATION SCHEMES AND WAIVERS OF GATT PROVISIONS FOR THEIR REGIONAL PREFERENTIAL TRADING ARRANGEMENTS. USDEL ALSO SUGGESTED THIS TOPIC IN DISCUSSIONS WITH ARGENTINE AND JAMAICAN DELEGATES, WHO EXPRESSED POLITE INTEREST BUT HAD DOUBTS THAT THE MINISTERS COULD MAKE ANY SIGNIFICANT DECISIONS IN THIS AREA.

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4. THE G-77 IS TRYING TO DRAFT AN AGENDA WHICH WILL COMMIT THE MINISTERS TO TAKE SPECIFIC ACTIONS TO RELIEVE LDC DEBTS. USDEL HAS STRESSED THAT THE AGENDA MUST NOT BE PREJUDICIAL. G-77 WILL OF COURSE BE FREE TO PRESENT THEIR OWN DRAFT RESOLUTIONS TO THE MINISTERS FOR CONSIDERATION ON ANY ISSUES RELEVANT TO AGENDA. TO THIS POINT RELATIONS WITH THE G-77 HAVE BEEN GOOD. USDEL BEING COOPERATIVE ON PROCEDURAL ISSUES BUT HOLDING TIGHT ON AGENDA AND OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ITEMS. REAL NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE G-77 HAVE YET TO BEGIN

5. FOLLOWING IS GROUP B DRAFT AGENDA. BEGIN TEXT:

- (1) ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANISATION OF WORK.
- (2) REVIEW OF ACTIONS CONCERNING THE INDEBTEDNESS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, INCLUDING ACTION TAKEN IN PURSUANCE OF RESOLUTION 94(IV), IN THE CONTEXT OF THESE COUNTRIES' RELATED DEVELOPMENT AND FINANCIAL PROBLEMS.
- (3) REVIEW OF THE DEVELOPMENT PROBLEMS OF THE LEAST-DEVELOPED, THE DEVELOPING ISLAND AND THE DEVELOPING LAND-LOCKED COUNTRIES, INCLUDING MEASURES TAKEN CONCERNING

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CEA-01 SS-15 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 AF-10
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THEIR DEBT AND RELATED DEVELOPMENT AND FINANCIAL PROBLEMS.
(4) (.....) (FOOTNOTE)
(5) OTHER BUSINESS.
(6) ADOPTION OF THE REPORT
(FOOTNOTE: TO BE DECIDED IN THE LIGHT OF DISCUSSIONS AT
THE RESUMED FIRST PART OF THE NINTH SPECIAL SESSION)
END TEXT.

6. GROUP B SUGGESTED AGENDA ITEM 4 AS A BRACKETED BLANK
SPACE TO INDICATE THAT ANOTHER SUBJECT COULD BE ADDED AT
A LATER DATE. FOOTNOTE ATTACHED TO ITEM REFLECTS WILL-
INGNESS TO LEAVE THIS QUESTION OPEN ON THE UNDERSTANDING
THAT THERE WILL BE A SECOND SENIOR OFFICIALSMEETING TO
FINALIZE THE AGENDA.

7. THERE IS GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT THE MINITERIAL MEETING
WILL BE TWO TO THREE DAYS, AND PRECEDED BY A TWO-THREE DAY
SENIOR OFFICIALS MEETING WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE THE SAME
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OR PREVIOUS WEEK TO DO SUBSTANTIVE GROUNDWORK. THE IDEA

HAS BEEN RAISED, WHICH THE ASIANS HAVE TENTATIVELY ACCEPTED, OF HAVING A DEBT EXPERTS MEETING DURING THE FIRST TWO WEEKS OF DECEMBER AND COMBINING IT WITH A SECOND SENIOR OFFICIALS MEETING TO FINALIZE AGENDA.

8. USDEL COMMENT: IT APPEARS THAT THE G-77 MEMBERSHIP, FOR THE SAKE OF GROUP UNITY AND SOLIDARITY, IS NOT RESISTING THE EFFORTS OF THE SOUTH ASIANS, JAMAICANS, AND AFRICANS TO PRESS FOR A TDB MINISTERIAL WHICH WILL FOCUS EXCLUSIVELY ON LDC DEBT PROBLEMS. THE LATIN AMERICANS APPEAR APATHETIC ABOUT THIS MEETING, VIEWING IT AS A PAYOFF TO LDC DEBTORS WHICH GAINED VERY LITTLE FROM UNCTAD IV. IN THE VIEW OF MANY LATIN AMERICANS, ANY EFFORT BY THE US OR GROUP B TO BROADEN THE AGENDA TO INCLUDE COMMODITIES OR TRADE ISSUES COULD BE REGARDED AS A SIGNAL THAT WE ARE PREPARED TO GIVE SOMETHING AWAY IN THESE AREAS, OR THAT WE ARE TRYING TO PULL OTHER GROUPS INTO ACTIVELY PARTICIPATING IN THE MINISTERIAL WHICH WOULD MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT TO NEGOTIATE AND THUS ACHIEVE MEANINGFUL RESULTS. VANDEN HEUVEL

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